CLAIMS

1. A method of assessing speech quality transmitted via a packet based telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

storing a sequence of intercepted packets associated with a call, each packet containing

speech data, and

an indication of a transmission time of said packet;

storing with each intercepted packet an indication of an intercept time of said packet;

extracting a set of parameters from said sequence of packets; and

generating an estimated mean opinion score in dependence upon said set of parameters;

characterised in that the extracting step comprises the sub steps of:

generating a jitter parameter for each of a sequence of stored packets in dependence upon

the difference between the transmission time of a stored packet and the transmission time of a preceding stored packet of the sequence; and

the difference between the intercept time of said stored packet and the intercept time of said preceding packet;

generating a long term average jitter parameter for said stored packet in dependence upon the value of said jitter parameter for said stored packet and the value of said jitter parameter for any preceding

stored packets; and

generating a differential jitter parameter in dependence upon the jitter parameter and the long term average jitter differential parameter.

2. A method according to claim 1, in which the extracting step further comprises the sub step of

determining a maximum value of said differential jitter parameter for a sequence of stored packets.

3. A method according to claim 1, in which the extracting step further comprises the sub step of

determining a variance value of said differential jitter parameter for a sequence of stored packets.

4. A method according to claim 2 in which the extracting step further comprises the sub step of

determining an average for a sequence of said maximum values.

5. A method according to claim 3 in which the extracting step further comprises the sub step of

determining an average for a sequence of said maximum values.

6. A method according to claim 3, in which the extracting step further comprises the sub step of

determining an average for a sequence of said variance values.

7. A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 1.

8. A computer program for implementing the method according to claim 1.

9. An apparatus for assessing speech quality transmitted via a packet based telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

means for storing a sequence of intercepted packets associated with a call, each packet containing

speech data, and

an indication of a transmission time of said packet;

means for storing with each intercepted packet an indication of an intercept time of said packet;

means for extracting a set of parameters from said sequence of packets; and

means for generating an estimated mean opinion score in dependence upon said set of parameters;

characterised in that the means for extracting further comprises:

means for generating a jitter parameter for each of a sequence of stored packets in dependence upon

the difference between the transmission time of a stored packet and the transmission time of a preceding stored packet of the sequence; and

the difference between the intercept time of said stored packet and the intercept time of said preceding packet;

means for generating a long term average jitter parameter for said stored packet in dependence upon the value of said jitter parameter for said stored packet and the value of said jitter parameter for any preceding stored packets; and

means for generating a differential jitter parameter in dependence upon the jitter parameter and the long term jitter differential parameter.